

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 03765 031421Z

41

ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7295

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BUDAPEST 3765

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC HU

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF ZSOLT SZALAY FOR THE MULTI-REGIONAL RADIO
PROJECT AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

1. NAME: MR. ZSOLT SZALAY.

TYPE OF GRANT: MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT, CODE 211.

JUSTIFICATION: NOMINATED BY INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL RELATIONS
(KKI), INTERVIEWED AND APIA

VED BY P&C OFFICER.

TENTATIVE VISA ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION: CONSULAR SECTION HAS
NOTHING ON RECORD TO INDICATE INELIGIBILITY.

AVAILABILITY DATES: DATES OF PROJECT.

BIOGRAPHIC DATA:

PLACE OF BIRTH: BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

DATE OF BIRTH: [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 19 AUG 2013].

MARITAL STATUS: MARRIED. CHILDREN: NONE.

PRESENT POSITION: HEAD OF NEWS DEPARTMENT, HUNGARIAN RADIO.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND: MA FROM KARL MARX UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS;
DEGREE IN JOURNALISM FROM JOURNALISTS' SCHOOL; SPECIALIST'S
DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY.

PUBLICATIONS: THE PENTAGONAL TRUTH; THE 168 HOURS

- ESSAYS ON BROADCASTING; FROM THE PERSIAN GULF TO THE PACIFIC,
CO-AUTHORED WITH JOZSEF SZABO. NUMEROUS ARTICLES ON BROAD-
CASTING AND FOREIGN POLICY.

LANGUAGES: EXCELLENT ENGLISH, FLUENT GERMAN AND RUSSIAN.

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TRAVEL: 1976: YUGOSLAVIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA - TOURISM; POLAND,

WEST GERMANY - OFFICIAL YV

1975: USA - OFFICIALLY FOR ONE MONTH; CZECHOSLOVAKIA - TOURISM.

1974: GREAT BRITAIN - OFFICIALLY; GREECE - TOURISM

1973: SOUTH VIETNAM, FOR NINE MONTHS AS MEMBER OF HUNGARIAN
DELEGATION TO ICCS

ADDRESS: H-1025 BUDAPEST, JOZSEFHEGY UT 1/B

2. COMMENTS: MR. SZALAY'S BACKGROUND AND PRINCIPAL
INTEREST IS IN BROADCASTING OF NEWS. WE RECOMMEND AND
THE NOMINEE CONCURS, THAT THE PRACTICAL WORKING ASSIGN-
MENTS HE UNDERTAKES IN THE COURSE OF PARTICIPATING IN
THIS MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT REFLECT THIS INTEREST BY
ALLOWING MR. SZALAY TO OBSERVE AND BE INVOLVED IN NEWS
BROADCASTING AT A MAJOR RADIO NETWORK, LIKE CBS, AND A
SMALLER STATION, PREFERABLY IN TEXAS OR THE MIDWEST.
THE GEOGRAPHIC AND OPERATIONAL DIMENSIONS, MR. SZALAY
FEELS, WILL ALLOW HIM TO ACQUIRE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING
OF THE "NEWS" PHENOMENON IN THE U.S. AND TO SEEK ANSWERS
TO QUESTIONS LIKE THE FOLLOWING:

- A) WHAT DETERMINES PROGRAM CONTENT DIFFERENCES IN U.S.
RADIO BROADCASTING?
- B) HOW DOES PROGRAM STRUCTURING OCCUR?
- C) WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE INTERVAL BETWEEN COLLECTION
AND BROADCASTING OF NEWS?
- D) HOW IS THE PROGRAM COMMENTARY CONSTRUCTED AND
WHAT IS ITS VALUE IN NEWS BROADCASTING?
- E) WHAT ROLE THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING PLAY IN THE
U.S.? ARE THERE CONTENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PBS AND
COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING?

3. IN THE COURSE OF HIS VISIT TO THE U.S., MR. SZALAY
HOPES TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT SOME OF THE
MAJOR UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH
STUDY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS I.E.: MIT, CORNELL, HARVARD
AND STANFORD. MR. SZALAY IS AN AVID FAN OF U.S. THEATER,
IS INTERESTED IN ARCHITECTURE AND SWIMMING AND UNDER-
WATER FISHING ARE HIS HOBBIES.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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Type: TE
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